

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SPC-03 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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R 231153Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR, BL, CI, UY

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S VISIT TO BRASILIA

REF: BRASILIA 1881

SANTIAGO 1378

MONTEVIDEO 578 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S ATTENDANCE AT BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION UNDERLINED LOCAL HOPE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ENTHUSIASTIC HOPES FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE INITIALLY NOTED IDEOLOGICAL COMPATIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENTS WHO MET IN BRASILIA, BUT, ON REFLECTION, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PRESS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE MODEST NATURE OF ANY IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS AND URUGUAYAN INTEREST IN A BALANCED COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LOCAL PRESS INITIALLY PLAYED UP PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S
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VISIT TO BRASILIA AND HIS INTERVIEWS THERE WITH THE PRESIDENTS

OF BRAZIL, CHILE AND BOLIVIA AS HERALDING IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS ON COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, PRESS REPORTED BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN ACQUIRING LARGE AMOUNTS OF URUGUAYAN MEAT, A BRAZILIAN OFFER TO FULLY FINANCE A SMALL 40 MEGAWATT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ON THE YAQUARON RIVER, AND BOLIVIAN INTEREST IN USING THE PORT OF MONTEVIDEO AS THE MAJOR FACILITY FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

3. DR. ALVARO PACHECO SERE, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY WHO ACCOMPANIED BORDABERRY ON HIS VISIT TO BRASILIA, REINFORMED OPTIMISTIC PRESS SPECULATION. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON MARCH 18, HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE COMMON EXPERIENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS WHO MET IN BRASILIA IN CONFRONTING "MARXIST AGGRESSION HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CREATED A HARMONIOUS CLIMATE WHICH WILL PERMIT IMPROVED COMMERCIAL RELATIONS".

4. ON MARCH 19, HOWEVER, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE RELEASE SOUGHT TO PLACE BRASILIA DISCUSSIONS IN A MORE REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE. THE PRESS OFFICE NOTED THAT WHILE PRESIDENT BORDABERRY HAD EXPRESSED TO GENERAL BANZER URUGUAYAN INTEREST IN GREATER USE BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF THE PORT OF MONTEVIDEO, BANZER HAS NOT COMMITTED HIS COUNTRY TO DEFINITIVE SUPPORT OF SUCH A PROJECT. THE PRESS RELEASE ALSO NOTED THAT PLANS FOR INCREASED USE OF URUGUAYAN PORTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE A LONG-TERM RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE PROSPECT. REFERRING TO YAGUARON RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, THE PRESS RELEASE STATED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAS "EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT IN MOVING FORWARD ON THE PROJECT, BUT HAD NOT MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO ITS FINANCING". INFLUENTIAL, PRO-ADMINISTRATION NEWSPAPER "EL PAIS" PERHAPS BEST SUMMED UP PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN BRASILIA WHEN, IN MARCH 22 EDITORIAL, IT COMPLEMENTED THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS AS "OF POTENTIAL BENEFIT".

5. COMMENT. URUGUAY IS INCREASINGLY LOOKING TOWARD ITS NEIGHBORS FOR COMMERCIAL CREDITS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND NEW MARKETS. THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO BRASILIA UNDERLINES THIS. THERE IS ALSO, AS PACHECO SERE'S STATEMENT INDICATED, CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY AMONG HIGH LEVEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FOR URUGUAY'S POLITICALLY LIKE-MINDED NEIGHBORS. NEVERTHELESS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE COMMON IDEOLOGICAL AND COMMERCIAL IF343 5 ARE SEEN HERE AS USEFULLY COMPLEMENTING EACH OTHER, THE FORMER IS NOT A NECESSARY REQUIREMENT FOR THE LATTER. AT THE TIME PRESIDENT BORDABERRY WAS IN BRASILIA, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, AMBASSADOR GUSTAVO MAGARINOS, WAS TRAVELING TO ARGENTINA IN CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMMERCIAL TIES. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT URUGUAYAN INTERESTS ARE TO

MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS AND IMPROVE COMMERCIAL TIES WITH ALL
ITS NEIGHBORS. AND WE EXPECT URUGUAY TO CONTINUE TO SEEK A
BALANCED COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS,
ESPECIALLY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL.
SIRACUSA

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